

## SUMMARY OF THE COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2001

U.S. Representative Diana DeGette's legislation designates 46 pristine areas totaling approximately 1.35 million acres as wilderness. These lands are currently managed or owned by the Bureau of Land Management (1 million acres) and National Forest Service (312,000 acres). Additionally, the legislation's boundaries include State and private land that would not become wilderness unless acquired by the federal government with the consent of the landowner.

**LAND:** Currently, there are 3.3 million acres of wilderness designated in Colorado, mostly on National Forest lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages another 8.3 million acres, virtually none of which is currently protected as wilderness. This new acreage amounts to 2% of Colorado's land base of 66 million acres. The legislation does not affect ownership of state or private lands within wilderness boundaries, unless the state or owner enters into an agreement with the federal government.

**WATER:** The legislation allows for the reservation of a federal water right for each wilderness area, established as of the date the legislation passes and junior to all pre-existing water claims. The legislation honors all existing water rights.

**ACTIVITIES:** Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, development and mechanized activities are prohibited within designated wilderness, including logging, road building, new mining, oil and gas drilling, and use of motorized and mechanized equipment. All existing mining claims are honored and livestock grazing, where previously existing, is allowed to continue. Use of wheelchairs, treatment of diseases and insects, fire suppression activities and all forms of non-mechanized recreation are allowed, including hiking, backpacking, horsepacking, hunting, fishing, rafting and canoeing, cross-country skiing, and scientific research.

**PARCELS:** The following is a list of sites proposed for wilderness designation.



*Cross Mountain*

Adobe Badlands	Deep Creek	Little Bookcliffs	Roubideau -Camel Back
Bangs Canyon	Demaree Canyon	Mares Tail Canyon	San Luis Hills
Beaver Creek	Diamond Breaks	Maroon Bells-Snowmass	Sewemup Mesa
Black Mtn-Windy Gulch	Dinosaur Additions	McIntyre Hills	Skull Creek
Browns Canyon	Dolores River Canyon	McKenna Peak	Snaggletooth
Bull Canyon	Dominguez Canyons	Oil Spring Mountain	South Shale Ridge
Bull Gulch	Flat Tops Addition	The Palisade	Thompson Creek
Castle Peak	Granite Creek	Pinyon Ridge	Troublesome
Cold Spring Mountain	Grape Creek	Platte River Contiguous	Unaweep
Cross Canyon	Handies Peak	Redcloud Peak	Vermillion Basin
Cross Mountain	Hunter Canyon	Rio Grande	Weber-Menefee Mtns
		Roan Plateau	Yampa River